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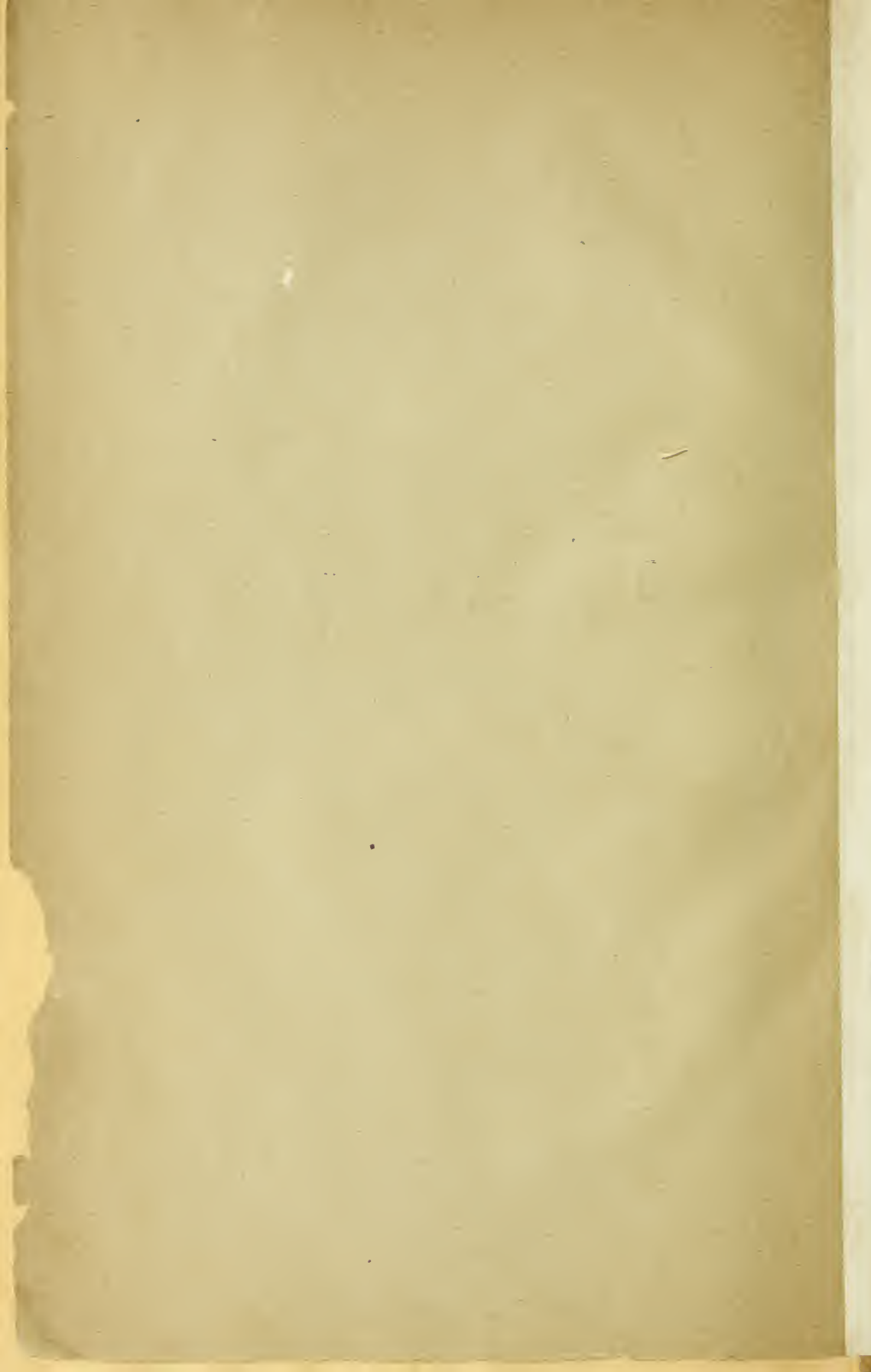


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Barnstable Gorhams.

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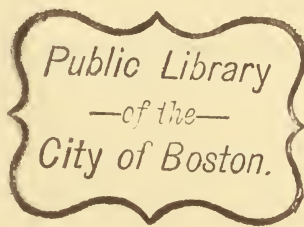
"Gorham House", Barnstable, 1716.



BARNSTABLE GORHAMS.

The Old House in which they lived, and their
Services in the Colonial Wars.

A Paper read 6 February, 1895, at a Court of the Society of
Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



BY
FRANK WILLIAM SPRAGUE, Esq.

✓
BOSTON :
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1896.

7232

J. W. Sprague,
Feb. 7, 1896.

Reprinted from the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register
for January, 1896.

Barnstable April 4th 1697
So Major Walley Comissioned for Warre those may Certifie
that to my Certain knowledge one John manasset an Indian
servant to m^r Tho Smith of Eastham went out Eastward
in last Expedition with major Fildark & serged Under Capt
John an Indian untill now Returned to Boston Againe

For Garretson

Memorandum dated the 1. 1695

Much honor'd my Son, with all due Respectfully humbly presented to your self
and unto the rest of the honorable company of your Honors, I have now to send to
trouble you with this few lines to trust your honorable account of our progress
in your triumphs. A riding unto your horse's order and taking notice of our
at Newbury with fifty more, and the next day I returned to Newbury
July 16th at noon, and the day following we did fly our flag together and
marked in pursuit to find our Enemy. But God hath bin pleased to smite
us and overcome by His might, though with much labor and travail we
had intended to find them out within 1000. I am with you
a more particular account. Our soldiers being much more but
having bin in the field this fortnight, and little hope of finding
the Enemy, so on this day we went towards our General: but as for my
and part I shall be sorry to serve God and the Country in this just
war. So long as I have life and health will I be to trouble you I do not
young to serve me what I am able.

John Gouge

Hon^l In The Camps May 7th 1745—

I beg the party from the Grand
Bathery may be as private as
possible In Getting their boats Ready
and cannot be Willing to proceed
Without Shaw to be my pilot If
he is not come by Land Should Chuse to
send a boat for him Ineasently and
esp. the City May have a warme
a Fire as we can Give them In
Differant places Untill one Clock or two
and then a Cessation Untill they hear
Us Engaged Hope to have all Ready
pray send Shaw for your most obedient
Humble serv^t In^o Gorkam
G. C.

LETTER WRITTEN TO SIR WILLIAM PEPPERRELL.

BARNSTABLE GORHAMS.

THE OLD HOUSE IN WHICH THEY LIVED, AND THEIR SERVICES IN THE COLONIAL WARS.

IN the eastern part of the town, on the north side of the road, and several houses west of the Yarmouth line, stands an old house, formerly owned by the Gorhams, now owned by Mr. Gilmore. Lt. Col. John Gorham, in his will dated 1716, says: "I give to Shubael the house in which he now lives, and the lands called Stony Cove lands."* Col. Shubael and his sons, Col. John and Lt. Col. Joseph Gorham, took part in the siege of Louisburg.† Among those who have lived in the old house were Col. David Gorham, brother of Col. John, and Dr. John Davis; also his son, Job C. Davis, Esq., for many years Register of Deeds.‡ "It is," says Gustavus A. Hinckley Esq., "one of the most interesting relics of old times, that vandalism, under cover of improvement, has permitted to remain, interesting from its family associations and the style of the domestic architecture and interior finish." It is the oldest of four houses now standing which were built by the Gorhams in early times, all of them upon the farm once owned by Capt. John Gorham, who settled in Barnstable in 1652.

The Gorhams took a very important part in the Colonial wars. In volume 67, Massachusetts Archives, there is a letter§ from Capt. John Gorham, written to Governor Winslow, in 1675. Capt. Gorham's son John was in his company of soldiers during the war with king Philip and his tribe. In volume 30, page 500, Massachusetts Archives, may be found the following letter:

"Barnstable, April Ye, 8, 1697.

"To Major Walley, Commissioner for war, these may certify that to my certain knowledge, one John Manassos, an Indian servant to Mr. Tho. Smith of Eastham, went out Eastward ye last Expedition with Major Church, and served under Capt. Jothro, an Indian until now returned to Boston again.

J^N. GORHAM. ||

* Barnstable Records and Otis's Barnstable Families.

† Nova Scotia Archives.

‡ Barnstable Records, Otis's Barnstable Families.

§ I have given photographs of this letter to the N. E. H. G. Society and Mass. His. Society.

|| Mass. Archives. vol. 30, page 500. This letter had not been indexed or published before.

Lieut. Governor Stoughton, in his instructions to Major Church, Aug. 12, 1696, says: "You are to advise as you can have occasion with Capt. John Gorham, who accompanies you in this expedition and is to take your command in case of your death." Lt. Col. John Gorham was second in command in the fourth and fifth expeditions against the French and Indians. His monument is near the Unitarian meeting house in Barnstable. June 1, 1744, a joint committee of war was called with William Pepperrell of Kittery, President of the Council, at its head, five hundred men were impressed, two hundred were dispatched to reinforce Annapolis, which was understood to be threatened by the Indians.

Nov. 9, 1744, Governor Shirley reported to the Duke of Bedford that the French officer DuVivier had retreated from before Annapolis, upon Capt. Gorham's arrival with his company of Indian rangers from New England, and that Gorham had so used his command that the garrison was now entirely free from alarm.*

In 1745 Capt. Gorham was sent from Annapolis to Boston to raise troops. While there he was induced to join the expedition then fitting out against Cape Breton. He was appointed Lt. Col. of the 7th Massachusetts regiment, commanded by his father, Col. Shubael Gorham, and on the death of his father at Louisburg was promoted by Pepperrell to be a full colonel. After the capture of Louisburg he returned to Annapolis and was placed by Governor Shirley in command of the Boston troops sent to Minas with Col. Noble.† In July, 1749, he was a member of the Governor's Council in Nova Scotia. His brother Joseph was a lieutenant of rangers under Governor Cornwallis in 1749, and later held the rank of Lieut. Colonel in the regular army.

In 1749 Col. John Gorham was sent to England to explain the state of military affairs in the colonies. Governor Shirley, in a letter written to the Duke of Bedford, Oct. 13, 1749, says: "Capt. Gorham's activity and usefulness in his Majesty's service I cannot too much commend to your grace." Colonel Gorham and his wife, Elizabeth Allen, were presented at court. She was one of the most accomplished women of her day.

The following letter copied from the Massachusetts Historical Society, is one of several written by him to Sir William Pepperrell:

"In the Camp, May 7, 1745.

"Hon. Sir:—I beg the party from the grand Battery may be as private as possible in getting their boats ready and cannot be willing to proceed without Shaw, to be my pilot. If he is not come by land should choose to send a boat for him immediately and also the city may have as warm a

* This Col. John Gorham was son of Shubael and grandson of Lt. Col. John, of Church's expeditions, 1696.

† See Year Book for 1895. Society of Colonial Wars.

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[Reprinted from the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register for Jan., 1905.]

GORHAM.—It having recently been stated in print that John² Gorham (*ante*, vol. 52, page 358), son of Capt. John¹ and Desire (Howland) Gorham, acquired his title of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Militia, the writer desires to show that he was commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel of the regular forces, by Colonel Benjamin Church, in March 1703-4. According to a letter of instructions written by Lieutenant-Governor Stoughton, dated Boston, Aug. 12, 1696, Captain John² Gorham was second in command under the then Major Benjamin Church in the expedition against the French and Indians, in that year. This is shown in the History of the Indian Wars, by Thomas Church, with Notes and an Appendix by Samuel G. Drake (second edition, 1839), page 219. We find on pages 250 and 252 of this History that Benjamin Church, who had received his own commission as Colonel from Governor Dudley, March 18, 1703-4, at once issued commissions to the officers of his regiment, giving that of Lieutenant-Colonel to John² Gorham. On page 281 we find the names of all of the Field Officers and Captains, under date of July 4, 1704.

Since the writer's notes were published in the REGISTER, *ante*, vol. 50, pages 32-34, the names of the officers and men who took part in the capture of Louisbourg have been published in the Massachusetts Historical Society's Collections, Sixth Series, Vol. X., *Pepperrell Papers*, Appendix, page 506. The officers of the Seventh Mass. Regiment were in part: Shubael³ Gorham, Esq., Colonel and Captain, 1st Company, commissioned Feb. 20, 1744; and John⁴ Gorham, Esq., Lieut.-Colonel and Captain, 2d Company, commissioned Feb. 20, 1744. These records show that when "Captain" John⁴ Gorham wrote his letter under date of May 7, 1745, to Sir William Pepperrell, he held the commission of Lieutenant-Colonel of the Seventh Mass. Regiment. Upon the death of his father, Colonel Shubael³ Gorham (Feb. 20, 1745-6), he was given the commission of Colonel of his father's regiment. (Usher Parsons's *Life of Pepperrell*, pages 238-240.)

Dr. Samuel A. Green, of the Massachusetts Historical Society, has kindly called my attention to an interesting point, as follows: "See Paige's *History of Cambridge* (p. 567), near the bottom of the page, for an instance of a Major-general being a Captain at the same time. It was the case of Samuel Green, though he was no kinsman of mine."

FRANK W. SPRAGUE.

Brookline, Mass.

"Nova Scotia Archives, By Thomas B. Atkins, D. C. L.,
Commissioner of Public Records, Halifax, 1869."

Pages 166.-168, 168-170, 181, 449, - 477, - 572. (Folded sheet.)
[572. Fac-simile of Col. John Gorham's signature, as one of Benson's Council,
1795. - 639, - 640, - 643, - 680.]

p 6

"Life of Sir, William Pepperrell By John Parsons, 1855."
"Page 238, Letter from Sir William Pepperrell, to Col. John Gorham."
" " 240, Letter from Col. John Gorham (July 5, 1751,) to Sir Wm. Pepperrell,
Col. John Gorham, letter when he joined the Louisbourg Expedition
and what was promised him by Gov. Shirley and Sir Wm. Pepperrell."



fire as we can give them in different places, until one o'clock or two and then a cessation until they hear us engaged. Hope to have all ready, pray send Shaw.

"Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

"JOHN GORHAM." *

Miss Louisa Low of Stamford, Connecticut, daughter of the late John Gorham Low of Gloucester, owns a portrait, painted by Copley in 1762,† of Elizabeth Gorham Rogers, daughter of Col. John Gorham and his wife Elizabeth Allan. The subject of this portrait was born in 1739 in the old Gorham house, still standing in Barnstable. This portrait was on exhibition in the "Loan Collection" at Copley Hall.

In Minister Chandler's diary of the First Church in Gloucester, (Babson's History), are the following notes :

"Jan. 20, 1754, I drank tea at Capt. John Stevens, his new wife came on Tuesday, she was the widow of Col. John Gorham of Barnstable."


Minister Chandler also says :

"The widow of Col. John Gorham brought with her to Gloucester, besides three beautiful daughters, one son, Solomon Gorham." "Nov. 6, 1759, I visited Eastern point, further end; married Daniel Rogers and Elizabeth Gorham." ‡

The Gorhams were descended from four of the pilgrims on the Mayflower, namely: John Tilley and his wife, Bridget Van De Velde.§

John Howland and his wife Elizabeth Tilley. The first John Gorham married Desire Howland, one of the first born in Plymouth.

I have some encouragement that the "Old Gorham House" in Barnstable will be marked by the "Old Colony Commission."

 This article has been gleaned from Massachusetts Historical Society, Nova Scotia Archives, Palfrey's History of New England, Otis's Barnstable Families, Gustavus A. Hinckley, Esq., of Barnstable, Major Nelson Gorham, of Fulton, New York, Babson's History of Gloucester, Minister Chandler's Diary, 1754 and 1759, Gorham Rogers, Esq., of Boston.

* Dr. Samuel Abbott. Green gave me permission to copy and to publish this letter.

† The portrait hung in one house in Gloucester for 90 years. Gorham Rogers, Esq. of Boston, gave to me valuable assistance in looking up the history of this portrait.

‡ Minister Chandler's Diary.

§ Goodwin's Pilgrim Republic.

"CHATEAU DE GORRON."

While making a trip through northern France, in July, 1891, I visited Gorron ("Gorram"). It is in the Province of Maine, about twelve miles from the city of Mayenne, nine miles from the railroad, and is a quiet little farming village. Very near the White Pigeon Hotel stand the ruins of the ancient "Chateau de Gorron," built in 1199. Enough remains to show the outlines of it. Houses and shops have been built so close to the old walls that from the road and little stream running through its grounds not much can be seen, except the fragments of one corner tower that stands perhaps forty feet high, topped by a modern roof, and contains two rooms; the lower one with its ancient fireplace has never been restored, the upper room being the only one now used. A small portion of another corner remains, only a rough ivy-covered wall.

At la Tannière, I was shown the site of an earlier "Chateau de Gorron," which is now occupied by a modern church.

"Giles de Gorham, son of William, took the cross from the hands of William Bishop of Mans, in company with Geoffrey, son of Juhell II., Lord of Mayenne, and one hundred and eight other knights, in the Church of St. Mary of Mayenne, A. D. 1158. He returned with only thirty-five of his company from the Holy Land, November 7, 1162, the rest having died in Sinai for the faith. In the latter year, probably as a pious acknowledgment of his preservation from the Infidels, he made grants to Savigny Abbey of lands in la Tannière."

(A fac-simile of his seal, representing a knight in armor, is given by Rev. George C. Gorham, in his notes, vol. v.)

ST. ALBANS CATHEDRAL AND GORHAMBURY HOUSE.

"Some of this family must have followed the Conqueror into England; for, at the time of the Domesday survey, 'William, son of Gorham,' was a tenant of land in Cippenhall, near Fressingfield, Suffolk, held of Hervey of Bourdeaux."

"The de Gorrams can be traced in Brittany to the beginning of the twelfth century. Their castle was situated on a small rivulet called the Futaye, at la Tannière, seven miles west from the town of Gorram ("from which place doubtless the family name originated") and twenty miles northwest from Mayenne."

"The castle of Gorram, now called Gorron, was granted in 1135 by Geoffrey Plantagenet, to Jubel II., Lord of Mayenne."

"Geoffrey de Gorham was descended from a noble family of Caen, Normandy. He was sixteenth Abbott of St. Albans, Hertfordshire. He was elected Abbott, A. D. 1119. He built the

(first) Manor House in Gorhambury park. His tomb is in St. Alban's Cathedral.

"John de Gorham, the last of the Hertfordshire family of that name, who possessed the manor of Gorhambury. In 1307 the aforesaid John and his wife, Isabella, sold the revision (after the decease of the survivor of either). The estate of Gorhambury thus passed out of the Gorham family, which appears to have been extinct in Hertfordshire in the early part of the fourteenth century. Gorhambury continued with the Abbey of St. Albans till the dissolution. It was granted by Henry VIII. to Ralph Rowlett, Esq. From him it passed to Sir Nicholas Bacon, father of Lord Bacon. It is now owned by the Earl of Verulam. It is situated in the midst of a beautiful park, and contains a good collection of portraits.

William de Gorham, the last possessor of that name of the manor of Churchfield, in the parish of Oundle, Northamptonshire, was living in 1338."

Oundle is very near Benefield, the place from which John Gorham emigrated to Plymouth, Mass., in 1635. "He came in the *Philip*, Capt. Richard Morgan."

Authorities.—"Northampton Wills, from 1510 to 1520, book A, page 161, will of Richard Gorham." "Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica, vols. v., vi., viii." "Clutterbuck's History of Hertfordshire." "Dictionnaire de la France, Department of Mayenne." "Rev. George C. Gorham, B. D., Minister of Maidenhead Parish" (1839-1841).

"Dean Stanley's *Historical Memorials of Canterbury*, page 116."

Barnstable in the Revolution.

27 Moreland St.,
BOSTON, May 28, 1894. }

Messrs. Editors:

In reading the several histories of Barnstable I have always wished that more had been written about the part that Barnstable took in the Revolution. I am told at the office of the Massachusetts Archives that at the time these histories were written the archives had not been indexed, the papers not being as accessible as now. After several days' search among these papers I find that Barnstable responded to the Lexington alarm of April 19, 1775, with a company of 66 men, under Col. Joseph Otis and Capt. Micah Hamlen, (the clerk of the regiment wrote it Hamilton, but I am told that Hamlen is correct). They marched toward Marshfield, the eastern rendezvous, until they were ordered to return. "Mass. Archives, Vol. 12, No. 117."

I have a photograph of the muster roll of the above named company, and will send it to Barnstable in a few days.

Col. Joseph Otis,
Capt. Micah Hamlen,
Lieut. Peter Goest,
Ensign Ira Parker,
Sergt. Zach Howland,
Sergt. Sam. Chipman,
Corp. Moses Wood,
Corp. Joseph Smith,
Private A. Chadwick,
" L. Jenkins,
" Benj. Goodspeed,
" Ruben Harmon,
" James Otis,
Lieut. Benj. Smith,
Private — Howland,
" Geo. Lewis,
" Eben Lothrop,
" Benj. Blatchford,
" John Russell,
" Jos. Annable,
" David Crocker,
" Not legible,
" John Hinckley,
" Abner Loring,
" John Cobb,
" Lewis Gorham,
" Jos. Allen, Jr.,
" John Dexter,
" — Burgis or Sturgis,
" — Baker,
" John Lewis,
" Jos. Downes,
" Eben Sturgis,
" Eleazer Cobb,
" Lot Lewis,
" Daniel Hall,
" Thos. Crocker,
" Benj. Lumbard,
" — Bassett,
" John Foster,
" Jos. Bailey,
" Jabez Wood,
" Fra. Crocker,
" John Crocker,
" Ellis Jenkins,
" Peter Lewis,
" Benj. Baker,

Ens. Jas. Colman,
Sergt. David Bearse,
Sergt. Stephen Davis,
Corp. John Lovell,
Private Eben Colman,
" James Phinney,
" Jos. Linnell,
" Jos. Davis,
" Gersham Howe,
" Abner West,
" Sam West,
" John Carne,
" David Bassett,
" Wm. Fuller,
" John Logy,
" Jos. Lumbard,
" Daniel Lewis,
" John Phinney,
" Benj. Lumbard.

In volume 36, page 111, there is the muster roll of Capt. Geo. Lewis' Co., Col. Freeman's Regt. "Service in the Alarm at Bedford, Dartmouth and Falmouth, Sept. 6, 1778, sea coast defense." Nathaniel Gorham and his son, Lewis Gorham, were in this company.

"Vol. 20, pages 67, 69, 72." Service in Boston for one month June 15, 1776, Capt. Micah Hamlen's Company. In the muster list are the names of Crocker, Goodspeed, Howland, Phinney, John Munroe, Hinckley, Thos. Sturgis, Lothrop, Bacon, Davis, Dexter, Jenkins, Bursley and others.

"Vol. 43, pages 1 to 27," is a very interesting book. It includes letters from Col. Joseph Otis and Major Dimmock. Some of the muster rolls have on them autographs of many Barnstable and Yarmouth men.

I have found lists of Barnstable names in eighteen volumes, and there are more that I have not seen.

Capt. Micah Hamlen appears to be the officer who recruited the most men from Barnstable.

In volume 51, page 11, appears the name of Sergt. John Gorham, who served during the war in a Worcester Regiment.

Very truly yours,
FRANK W. SPRAGUE.

Tuesday, Jan. 15th.

1895

Gorhams in the Revolution.

Messrs. Editors of the Barnstable Patriot:

During the past year the society of the Sons of the American Revolution has placed markers on the graves of many Revolutionary soldiers. Its year book makes no mention of any having been placed in Barnstable. That our good old town furnished its full share of patriots is shown by the Archives in the State House. The rooms in which these are kept are thronged daily by those searching for information in regard to their revolutionary ancestors.

I give below a list of the members of the Gorham family who took part in the Revolution.

F. W. S.

Cambridge, Jan. 1st, 1895.

John Gorham, son of Joseph Gorham and Abigail Lovell, born in Norwalk, Conn. After his father's death he lived with his grandfather, "John Gorham, Esq." (29-6). He was in Col. Freeman's regiment, Falmouth alarm 1779, also of Falmouth, under Capt. Clark, arrived in Springfield, July 19, 1780, aged 39 years, stature 5 ft., 6 in., ruddy complexion. "Mass. Archives vol. 35, p. 202." "In Col. Jackson's regt. 1782." "Mass. Archives, vol. 48, p. 495."

John Gorham of Yarmouth, Mass. His age compares with that of John Gorham, son of Thomas Gorham, who lived in the old Gorham house, next the Yarmouth line. Age 18, stature 5 ft., 4 in., complexion dark, residence Yarmouth. Under Capt. Clark, arrived in Springfield, July 19, 1780, 6 months service. "Mass. Archives, vol. 27, p. 21." "Mass. Archives, vol. 4, p. 250."

Sergt. John Gorham, of Hardwick, Worcester Co. aged 23, stature 5 ft., 10 in., complexion ruddy, hair red, farmer, served during war, enlisted Dec. 1779, Col. John Brooks regiment. "Mass. Archives vol. 74, p. 123." Received honorary badge for faithful service. "Mass. Archives vol. 74, p. 93," discharged June 10, 1783, by Gen. Washington, time having expired. "Vol. 74, p. 83."

Joseph Gorham, of Yarmouth, Mass., Col. Bradford regiment, service 3 years. "Mass. Archives, vol. 68, p. 27." "In Col. John Brooks regiment, Aug. 1781." Fifer, during war. "Mass. Archives, vol. 51, p. 11."

Josiah Gorham, of Hardwick, Worcester Co., age 22, stature 5 ft., 6 in., complexion light, hair brown, farmer, during war, Col. John Brooks regiment, April 1781. "Mass. Archives, vol. 51, p. 11." "Mass. Archives, vol. 74, p. 161."

George Gorham, belonging to Norwich, Hampshire Co. Mass., age 17, stature 5 ft., 3 in., brown hair, Col. Chapin's regiment. "Mass. Archives, vol. 42, p. 137." "Mass. Archives, vol. 33, p. 623." 21 years, served 3 years; farmer, Southampton, Mass.

Benjamin Gorham, 1776, stationed at Martha's Vineyard. "Mass. Archives."

Daniel Gorham, Col. of Barnstable Co. Regt. 1773 and 1774. "Mass. Archives, vol. 28, p. 85."

David Gorham, Col. Jos. Whitney's Plymouth Co. Regt. 1773, R. I. Service. "Mass. Archives, vol. 1, p. 169."

Elisha Gorham, "Mass. Archives, vol. 23, p. 60."

Ezekiel Gorham, Capt. Howell's Co., 1784, "Mass. Archives, vol. 30, p. 125." "In Col. Tyler's regt. 1779, vol. 20, p. 85."

Hezekiah Gorham, Feb. 3, 1779, 3 months, "Mass. Archives, vol. 18, p. 142." "In Col. Freeman's regt. 1777."

Isaac Gorham, Capt. Joshua Gray's Co., 1775, "Mass. Archives, vol. 36, p. 15." "Capt. Nye's Co., vol. 36, p. 153."

Jabez Gorham of Hampshire, Mass., age 16, stature 5 feet, complexion light, farmer, served 3 years. "Mass. Archives, vol. 33, p. 627." "Mass. Archives, vol. 34, p. 214."

Job Gorham, returned prisoner, resided on Cape Cod. "Mass. Archives, vol. 160, p. 359."

Jonathan Gorham, Col. Freeman's regt. "Mass. Archives, vol. 55, p. 93."

Nathaniel Gorham, son of "John Gorham, Esq." "(29-6)," was in Capt. Geo. Lewis Co., Sept. 6, 1778. "Mass. Archives, vol. 36, p. 111."

Lewis Gorham of Barnstable, son of Nathaniel, and grandson of "John Gorham, Esq." "(29-6)," was in the Barnstable Co. of soldiers, Marshfield alarm, April 19, 1775. "Mass. Archives, vol. 12, p. 117." "In Col. Freeman's regt., Sept. 6, 1778." "Mass. Archives, vol. 36, p. 111."

Matthias Gorham. "Mass. Archives, vol. 36, p. 198."

Prince Gorham of Barnstable, son of Ebenezer, and grandson of James. "Prince Gorham built the house now owned by the heirs of Ansel Hallett." "Prince Gorham, "Mass. Archives, vol. 36, p. 111."

Reuben Gorham. "Mass. Archives, vol. 23, p. 100."

Robert Gorham. "Mass. Archives, vol. 27, p. 273."

Roland Gorham. "Mass. Archives, vol. 17, p. 223."

Samuel Gorham. "Mass. Archives, vol. 1, p. 137."

Shubael Gorham. "Mass. Archives, vol. 146, p. 274."

Silas Gorham of Hardwick, Wor. Co. "Mass. Archives, vol. 53, p. 208."

Lieut. Stephen Gorham of Hardwick, Wor. Co. "Mass. Archives, vol. 68, p. 20."

Sylvanus Gorham. "Mass. Archives, vol. 36, p. 111."

Lieut. Solomon Gorham of Gloucester. "Mass. Archives, vol. 37, p. 29."

Capt. Sturgis Gorham of Barnstable. Deputy Collector of excise, County of Barnstable. "Mass. Archives, vol. 178, p. 415."



ONE CAPE COD HOMESTEAD.

On Saturday the Old Colony Commission appointed recently by Governor Greenhalge under an act of the Legislature "to investigate certain spots of general historic interest within the counties of Bristol, Barnstable, Plymouth, Norfolk and Nantucket, and collect such historical information in relation thereto as it shall deem expedient," met at the courthouse in Barnstable to hear testimony of the claims of that locality. The commission consists of Hon. William T. Davis of Plymouth, Rev. S. Hopkins Emery of Taunton and L. Vernon Briggs, Esq., of Hanover.

Of the spots for which claims will be advanced as to their historic interest, perhaps the most interesting and important is the old Gorham homestead, in which were born and reared members of a notable Cape Cod family whose descendants have become famous.

James Gorham of Benefield, Northamptonshire, England, married in 1572 Agnes Berham, and their son Ralph, born in 1575, came to Plymouth in —, and was the ancestor of those of the name in this country. John, the son of Ralph, was baptized 28 Jan., 1620, at Benefield, and came to this country with his father.

In 1643, at the age of twenty-two, he married Desire, the daughter of John Howland, one of the last survivors of the Mayflower passengers. Living at the time at Plymouth, shortly after, in 1646, the young couple settled at Marshfield, and then in 1652 at Yarmouth, adjoining Barnstable. He was owner of a grist mill and wharf; also a tannery. A deputy to the General Court and holding various town offices, his greatest service, however, was of a military nature during King Philip's War, and from the exposure and fatigue incident to the expedition he contracted a fever and died at Swansea 5 Feb., 1675.

Of his children, Desire married Captain John Hawes; Temperance married (1) Edward Sturges, (2) Thomas Baxter; Lydia married Colonel John Thacher. From these have descended a numerous and distinguished progeny.

Of the sons, James, the eldest, was in 1703 the richest man in Barnstable; Joseph served in the militia; Jabez was the ancestor of the family in Rhode Island; Shubael, a man of good business capacity, was the youngest. The second son was John, named after his father, and working at his trade as a tanner. He also accompanied his father in King Philip's War, and inherited from him part of the homestead with the dwelling.

John Gorham, Jr., born in Marshfield, Feb. 20, 1651, married in 1674 Mary, the daughter of John Otis. His service to the colony, like that of his father, was of a military nature, and besides that previously stated he held the rank of captain in the expedition under Sir William Phips to Canada in 1690, and before his death, which occurred Dec. 9, 1716, he had attained the rank of major in 1702, and of lieutenant colonel in 1703, having had active service in expeditions in 1696-97 and 1702-04; and held office as representative to the General Court from 1688 for several years.

Of the children of Lieutenant Colonel Gorham, Temperance married Stephen Clap, and had Thomas Clap, president of Yale College 1740 to 1764; Mary married Joseph Hinckley, and their son, Isaac, was a distinguished patriot of the Revolution; Thankful married Lieutenant John Fuller; Mercy married Hon. Sylvanus Bourne, judge councillor, colonel, etc., a wealthy merchant, whose sons, William and Sylvanus, were active at the second siege of Louisburg in 1758. The sons were also progenitors of a distinguished stock. Stephen married Elizabeth Gardner of Nantucket; of this line was the Hon. Nathaniel Gorham of Charlestown, Mass., prominent in the Revolution, and father of Ann, the wife of Peter C. Brooks and grandmother of Hon. Charles Francis Adams and Hon. William Everett. A son of Nathaniel Gorham, Nathaniel, went to Canandaigua, N. Y., of which he was a pioneer settler. Hon. Benjamin Gorham was another son.

The second son of Lieutenant Colonel John was Shubael, born Sept. 2, 1686; at the age of twenty, on the 13th May, 1707, he sailed with the forces under Colonel John March, from Nantasket, in the expedition against Port Royal, with the rank of ensign in Captain Caleb Williamson's company of Barnstable. His military career closed with his services at Louisburg in 1745. He was commissioned "Colonel of the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment and captain of the First Company," Feb. 20, 1744-5. His greatest service, however, was his successful effort in obtaining the lands of the Narragansett townships to the heirs of the soldiers who fought in King Philip's war. As a grandson of Captain John and son of Colonel John Gorham, he was granted land in Narragansett, No. 7, of Gorham town, now Gorham, Me., and his time and money were freely spent in the settlement of that place to his own pecuniary loss and insolvency of his estate at his death in 1746. At Gorham, Me., on the town monument, may be seen a quotation from the letter of Captain John Gorham, written in 1675, to Governor Winslow, in which he offers to serve God and his country as long as he had life and health, which he literally fulfilled, in his death during the war. Of the children of Colonel Shubael Gorham, the eldest son, John, born Dec. 12, 1709, was the captain of the second company in his father's regiment, and lieutenant colonel at Louisburg in 1745, and succeeded him as colonel. He left Barnstable in 1742, and resided in Falmouth, now Portland, Me., and about 1750, went to England as agent, and to advance his claim for expenses in the late war. He died there in a few years, and his widow married in 1654, and settled in Gloucester. Their daughter's portrait (Mrs. Elizabeth Gorham Rogers), painted by Copley, was recently exhibited in the city at the Loan Exhibition.

The most distinguished service of Colonel John Gorham was as captain of a company of Indian rangers at Annapolis, in 1744, and as member of the governor's council of Nova Scotia from 1749 to 1751. His death is supposed to have been by smallpox in London, while attempting to obtain justice for his expenditure and share in the capture of the fortress of Louisburg, a fate which befell his brother officer and promoter of the expedition, Colonel William Vaughan, who, with others, attempted to obtain a recompense for their expenses and hardships, and which in some cases was not received by their heirs till half a century had elapsed.

David, son of Shubael, was also a soldier at the siege of Louisburg, in 1745, and performed other military service; he was also registrar of probate for many years; he

also attained the rank of colonel in the militia. His son, Hon. William Gorham of Gorham, Me., was prominent in the Revolution, and afterward held the office of judge of probate and of the Court of Common Pleas.

Joseph, another son of Shubael, was at Louisburg, and in 1749, lieutenant of rangers, being raised to major in 1760, and lieutenant colonel in 1771. In 1766 he became of the council of Nova Scotia, and for many years was lieutenant governor of Placentia, Newfoundland. He also had great influence over the Micmac Indians in Nova Scotia.

John Gorham, son of Lieutenant Colonel John, and brother of Colonel Shubael, had sons Joseph, Benjamin, etc. Benjamin married Mary Sturgis. Their son, Sturgis Gorham, had a daughter, Mary Sturgis Gorham, who married John Palfrey, Esq., and was mother of Hon. John Gorham Palfrey.

The structure, which sheltered the birth of many of the characters, in the early history of the Commonwealth and the nation, who have been mentioned in this sketch; is deemed a fitting spot to be so marked that future generations will have preserved to them the memory of active and principal participants in turning points in the nation's history

WALTER K. WATKINS.
18 Somerset street.

Mercy (.) Gorham, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel John (2) Gorham and Mary Otis, married, in 1717, Hon. Sylvanus Bourne, of Barnstable. Their son, Melitiah Bourne, married Mary Bayard, a niece of Governor Bowdoin. He was a cousin of Major General Joseph Gorham.

Many of the letters written by General Gorham to him from 1760 to 1768 are among the "Bourne Papers," at Harvard College Library.

Edward (5) Gorham was the son of Benjamin (4) Gorham and his wife, Mary Sturgis, and great-grandson of Lieutenant Colonel John (2) Gorham and Mary Otis. Edward (5) Gorham married Abigail Taylor, and their daughter, Desire (6) Gorham, married Captain Daniel C. Bacon, of Barnstable and Boston. Captain Bacon's residence in Boston was on the corner of Tremont street and Temple place.

Captain Benjamin (4) Gorham, son of Colonel Shubael (3), married Nancy Hinckley, Nov. 28, 1774, and their son, Captain Benjamin (5) Gorham, Jr., married Nancy Knesland, Feb. 13, 1809; and their son, James (6) L. Gorham of Jamaica Plain, was the last of the sixth generation of the Gorham family. He died within a year or two. It was his grandfather, Captain Benjamin (4) Gorham of the brig Fortune who brought the tea that was emptied into Boston dock, "March 7, 1774."

Some years ago Mr. Walter K. Watkins wrote an article for the Transcript entitled "One Cape Cod Homestead." In his list of the noted families who were descended from Lieutenant Colonel John (2) Gorham and Mary Otis, he included Hon. John Gorham Palfrey, Hon. Charles Francis Adams, Peter C. Brooks, Professor Everett and many others. Among those descended from the same ancestors who made their home in Barnstable are Gustavus A. Hinckley, the well-known historian of his native town, and the late Major Sylvanus B. Phinney, who was the editor of the Barnstable Patriot.

F. W. S.

Note *583. Gorham. Gorham Family. The home of this family in Barnstable, Mass., was built before 1716. The first owner of it was Lieutenant Colonel John (2) Gorham, who married Mary Otis in 1674-5. It stands upon the farm that belonged to his father. Among the many distinguished descendants of Lieutenant Colonel John (2) Gorham are the family of the President of the United States, an English nobleman and a baronet. President Roosevelt's wife and children, with the exception of his oldest daughter (who is the child of his first wife), are descended from this family in the following line: Lieutenant Colonel John (2) Gorham's son Stephen (3) Gorham married Elizabeth Gardner of Nantucket; their son Captain Nathaniel (4) Gorham, born in Barnstable, married Mary Soley of Charlestown, Mass., July 6, 1736, and their daughter Elizabeth (5) Gorham (who was a sister of Hon. Nathaniel (5) Gorham of the Continental Congress), married Captain John Leighton, and their daughter Elizabeth (6) Leighton, born Sept. 22, 1776, married Benjamin Lee, in Boston, May 27, 1797. They lived in Cambridge, Mass. Their daughter Emily (7) Lee, born in Cambridge, Nov. 17, 1813, married Daniel Tyler of Norwich, Conn., May 20, 1832. The rest of this line is given in the "Memoir of Benjamin Lee," Harvard College Library.

According to the memoir of Benjamin Lee, by his son, Bishop Alfred Lee of Delaware, Captain John Leighton and his wife, Elizabeth (5) Gorham, had a son, Nathaniel Gorham Leighton, born Feb. 1, 1784, and this is confirmed by the Boston birth records. Bishop Alfred Lee was own cousin to the mother of Bishop Phillips Brooks. Colonel Shubael (3) Gorham of Barnstable had a son Joseph (4), who went with him to Louisburg, in 1745. This man was in the

English army for more than forty years; he was made a major general in 1790. He took part in the siege of Quebec and the battle of the Plains of Abraham. He also took part in the capture of Havana in 1762. His daughter, Charlotte (5) Spry Gorham, married Feb. 13, 1797, Sir John Jackson. (See Burke's Peerage (1904), page 846.)

Captain Sturgis (5) Gorham of Barnstable, Mass., was the great-grandson of Lieutenant Colonel John (2) Gorham. His tenth child, Charlotte (6) Gorham, married Thomas Leader Harman of New Orleans, La., and their daughter, Charlotte Gorham Harman, married Oct. 25, 1839, Henry William Eaton, First Baron Cheylesmore, of Cheylesmore, Coventry, England. (Burke's Peerage, page 315.) Her mother, the daughter of Captain Sturgis (5) Gorham, died in Bath, Eng., in 1821, and she died Feb. 27, 1877. The present Lord Cheylesmore is a great-grandson of Captain Sturgis (5) Gorham of Barnstable. He married July 14, 1892, Elizabeth, daughter of F. O. French of New York.

Stephen (5) Gorham, who married Mary White, was a son of Captain Nathaniel (4) Gorham and Mary Soley. His son, Dr. John (6) Gorham, married Mary Warren, in 1808. She was the daughter of Dr. John Warren, who was a surgeon in the Revolutionary Army. Dr. John (6) Gorham was a professor of chemistry at Harvard College in 1816. He was born in 1783, and died in 1829. His children were: Julia (7) Gorham, born 1810; Dr. John (7) Warren Gorham, born in 1812, and died in Rhode Island in 1893; Hallowell (7) Gardner Gorham, born in 1815; and Francis (7) Gorham, born in 1820. The latter was a Boston broker. The Bostonian Society has a picture of the "Old Tremont Club," "The Beginning of the Somerset Club," and H. Gardner Gorham is one of the group.

Answer to Note *585. Gorham. Since the publication of my Gorham notes in the Transcript of July twentieth, several correspondents have asked for more proof that Elizabeth (5) Gorham, ~~who resided in Boston~~ was the daughter of Captain Nathaniel (4) Gorham and his wife, Mary Soley of Charlestown, Mass. According to the memoir of Benjamin Lee, Elizabeth (5) Gorham was the wife of Captain John Leighton. Her husband was accidentally killed at Cape Haitien, April 16, 1784. When Charlestown was burned by the British troops, "her place of retreat was Lunenburg, Mass., and there her daughter, Elizabeth (6) Leighton, was born Sept. 22, 1776." (The record of this birth is among the Boston Public Records, under the same date).

It is known that her brother, Hon. Nathaniel (5) Gorham, and his family went to Lunenburg, Mass., at the same time. She had a son, Nathaniel Gorham (6) Leighton, born Feb. 1, 1784 (Boston Public Records). The author of the memoir of Benjamin Lee states that Elizabeth (5) Gorham was related to several of the old Massachusetts families, the Gorhams, Codmans, Phillips and Coffins, and that she died in Boston, March, 1822. His record of her death agrees exactly with the record of her death in the Boston Public Records.

"Elizabeth (5) Leighton, died March 15, 1822, aged seventy-seven years, old age, place of interment Charlestown." (Boston Records.) According to "records of Brattle Square Church, page 287, her funeral took place March 17, 1822. Elizabeth (5) Leighton, seventy-seven years," "old age." She was probably buried in the "Soley tomb," Phipps street, Charlestown, Cemetery, as she was a granddaughter of John Soley. According to "Wyman's History of Charlestown," page 423, Captain Nathaniel (4) Gorham's fourth child was Elizabeth (5) Gorham, born July 14, 1745. According to the Boston records, she was buried in

Charlestown as Elizabeth Leighton, in March, 1822, aged seventy-seven. If we add seventy-seven to seventeen forty-five we have eighteen twenty-two (1822). The date of her birth in Charlestown and the date of her burial in the same city identify her as the daughter of Captain Nathaniel (4) Gorham of Charlestown. F. W. S.

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